

attention to color combinations the importance of which as a character has been several times emphasized by the reviewer.

In his remarks on the ptilosis of *Podargus* and the *Trochilidæ* we notice no reference to the papers of Dr. Hubert Lyman Clark in 'The Auk,' 1901, p. 167 and 1906, p. 68. Mr. Miller will find some of his statements already recorded there. While it is satisfactory to have previous work verified, reference should be given to it, and we think these two papers must have escaped Mr. Miller's eye.

In a footnote on p. 134 occur some comments on generic names of Parrots. Among other things Mr. Miller fails to see how the names proposed by Kuhl for "sections" of certain genera can be rejected as has been advocated by Mr. Gregory Mathews (*Novitates Zool.*, XVIII, p. 11). We heartily agree with Mr. Miller that no distinction can be made between subgenera and "sections" and that these names must be recognized. In the case of *Conurus*, however, Mr. Miller apparently overlooked the fact that, as Mr. Mathews explains, Lesson fixed as the type of this genus a species of *Palæornis*, which action transfers the name *Conurus* to this old world group necessitating the adoption of *Aratinga* for the South American Conures.—W. S.

**Cory on New South American Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Cory describes twenty-one new forms in the present paper, based on material obtained by the various Field Museum South American expeditions. They are as follows: *Crypturus tataïpa peruviana* (p. 293), Central Peru; *Nothoprocta ambigua* (p. 293), Otusco, Peru; *Odontophorus plumbeicollis* (p. 294), Ceara, Brazil; *Columba rufina andersoni* (p. 294), Boa Vista, N. Brazil; *C. r. tobagensis* (p. 295), Tobago; *C. plumbea propinqua* (p. 295), Moyobamba, Peru; *C. subvinacea zullia* (p. 295), Zulia, Venezuela; *Aramides cajanea venezuelensis* (p. 296), Encontrados, Venezuela; *A. c. peruviana* (p. 296), Moyobamba, Peru; *Cerchneis sparverius peruviana* (p. 296), Chachapoyas, Peru; *C. s. distincta* (p. 297), Boa Vista, Brazil; *C. s. margaritensis* (p. 297), Margarita Island; *C. s. ochracea* (p. 298), Colon, Venezuela; *Otus choliba margaritæ* (p. 298), Margarita Island; *Speotyto cunicularia arubensis* (p. 299), Aruba Island; *S. c. beckeri* (p. 299), Bahia, Brazil; *S. c. intermedia* (p. 300), Pacasmayo, Peru; *Podager nacunda minor* (p. 300), Boa Vista, Brazil; *Nyctidromus albicollis obscurus* (p. 301), Yurimaguas, Peru; *Caprimulgus hirundinaceus crissalis* (p. 301), Bahia, Brazil; *Threnetes longicauda* (p. 301), Ceara, Brazil.—W. S.

**Shufeldt on the Tree Ducks.**<sup>2</sup>—This paper consists of an extended description of the skeleton of *Dendrocygna* compared with those of certain

<sup>1</sup> Descriptions of New Birds from South America and Adjacent Islands. By Charles B. Cory. Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ. 182, Ornith. Series, Vol. 1, No. 8. February 23, 1915, pp. 293-302.

<sup>2</sup> Contribution to the Study of the "Tree-Ducks" of the genus *Dendrocygna*. By R. W. Shufeldt. Zool. Jahrbüch. 1914, pp. 1-70, pll. 1-16.

ducks, geese and swans. The author's conclusions are the same as those he reached on a previous occasion, being those held by "the most eminent ornithologists and avian taxonomers of the Old World" -- that *Dendrocygna* belongs with the ducks and not with the swans or geese with which the A. O. U. Check-List associates the genus. Dr. Shufeldt's criticism of the classification of the latter work shows that he has not read the preface where the reasons for maintaining the original sequence of groups are given. A "Check-List" need not be a "Phylogenetic System" and the A. O. U. Committee clearly states that the sequence followed does not represent present day classification. No less than 14 double page half-tone plates of the osteology of *Dendrocygna* and allied genera are used in illustration of Dr. Shufeldt's paper as well as two crude colored plates of tree ducks.—W. S.

**Shufeldt on Fossil Birds in the Marsh Collection.**<sup>1</sup>—In this paper Dr. Shufeldt presents the results of his studies of the avian fossils in the Marsh collection in the Yale University Museum and certain of Marsh's types of fossil birds in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Prof. Marsh left much material unidentified and from this Dr. Shufeldt has described a number of new forms. viz: *Telmatornis rex* (p. 27), New Jersey Cretaceous; *Botauroides* (gen. nov.) *parvus* (p. 33), *Eoecornis* (gen. nov.) *ardetta* (p. 39), *Falco falconella* (p. 40), and *Grus marshi* (p. 41), all from the Eocene of Wyoming; *Colymbus oligoceanus* (p. 54), *Larus pristinus* (p. 54), *Limicolavis pluvianella* (p. 55), and *Phalacrocorax marinavis* (p. 56) from the Oligocene (?) of Oregon; *P. mediterraneus* (p. 58) and *Phasianus americanus* (p. 58) from the Oligocene of Colorado and Oregon respectively; *P. miocceanus* (p. 60), Nebraska Miocene, *Sula atlantica* (p. 62), New Jersey Miocene, *Tympanuchus lulli* (p. 69), Post-pliocene of New Jersey; *Colinus eatoni* (p. 70), Kansas, *Gavia pusilla* (p. 70), Wyoming (?), *Phasianus alphildæ* (p. 71), Wyoming, the last three with no horizon recorded. A new genus *Minerva* (p. 43) is proposed for *Aquila antiqua*.

Dr. Shufeldt has added materially to the list of North American fossil birds, but there are two nomenclatural points in his valuable paper that call for comment. One is the naming "provisionally" a species *Colymbus oligoceanus*. After the numerous discussions of rules of nomenclature that have been going on of late years we thought that one point was pretty generally understood, i. e. that it was impossible to name a species *provisionally*. A name once published stands or falls on the original diagnosis no matter how poor or incomplete it may be. Another species is called by Dr. Shufeldt *Phasianus americanus*, but this name has been previously used by Audubon (Orn. Biog. V, p. 335, 1839). The name was proposed for a bird seen and described by J. K. Townsend; what it was it is diffi-

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<sup>1</sup> Fossil Birds in the Marsh Collection of Yale University. By R. W. Shufeldt. Trans. Conn. Acad. Arts and Sciences, Vol. 19, pp. 1-110. February, 1915.